

s if anyone didn't think 5ki-Doo was going to take the REV chasasis into every corner of their product line. Okay, maybe this was a no-brainer from a predictability standpoint but we're here to rell you the execution, performance and value of this all-new model for '05 made it one of our easiest picks.

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Here's the deal. The REV is rocking the sno-mo-industry. The rider forward concept, as Supertrax aptly coined it, works too well to ignore. Pilots are bester isolated from impacts, can react to changng terrain much quicker and the REV's unique handling allows for a new way to carve white top. In a nutshell, the REV rules.

Flere's one better. Take another 30 to 40 pounds out of the already light liquid cooled REV fleet and toss in a meany, cylinder reed 550cc mill. Strip off some pricey stuff like a tach, Ptecision Skis and techy shocks and give it full on MX-Z REV graphics. You'll end up with the neutost low-buck sled available in 2005. There's way too much value here for the money and the level of performance the new MX-Z 550 Fan delivers is ourstanding.

We found the sled could be thrown into tight trails with abandon

and almost unbelievably - if the trails remained tight - the 550 Fanster could keep a 600 HO REV in its cross hairs. While the cheaps shocks are decidedly not capable of snocross feats, the RFV platforms unique ability to keep the rider in the middle of the sted in bumps produces. not just an acceptable but, an incredible ride

If there was ever a time in the history of this sport when snowmobilers needed a really, teatly good low priced sled, it's right now, Everyone agrees the cost of insurance, maintenance and fuel has been escalating at a blinding rate the past decade - but snowmobile price tags are flat-out skyrocketing. It's time for a supernobile like the 5501; Furthermore, Ski-Doo has perfectly capruted the essence of what an entry level sled should be: a catalyst to anchor a family to a particular brand. We think owners will hang onto their REV 550 and buy a second, more powerful REV, then a third, then another,

This sled isn't just about value, it performs was beyond our expectations and, in our view, redefines what a price point sled can be Kudos to Ski-Doo for starting with a fresh sheet of paper to create this REV variant ... what a concept! - Mark Lester

MOST SIGNIFICANT 2005 RS Vector

YAMAHA MOTOR CORPORATION

hink about seeing the future in a crystal ball. If we could see what I kinds of sieds we'll be buying five years from now, we'd see at some time in the past, perhaps in 2005, there was a turning point, What 2005 model made a significant impact on the snowmobile industry and was the apex of the corner everything turned on? There's a strong argument for Ski-Doo's REV. It began the rider forward, centralized mass trend everyone's scrambling to get a piece of. Agreed, this chassis layout is destined to be the future but... it was introduced three vears seo

There's more, though - and it's really important. We're being legislated into a corner. EPA emission togulations are looming - it's undeniable the snowmobile industry will have to adapt and comply with some extremely harsh environmental guidelines by 2010. The first stage is next year, 2006. Whether or not the 2-stroke engine will survive these long term regulations is entirely up to the industry. Its ability to innovate more clean-air 2-srtokes and develop acceptable technology without com promising what makes snow mobiles great is critical.

Frankly, looking at it realistically, in this calendar year, the best het for 2010 compliance is the 4-stroke engine. Even without electronic fuel injection these engines come mighty close to complying. The problem so far has been one of delivery - delivery of 4-stroke sleds able to meet the criteria snowmobilers demand. All the aspects

